

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION honoring Willie Southerland,
recipient of the French Legion of Honor medal.

PAUL

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

A SENATE RESOLUTION honoring Willie Southerland, recipient of the French Legion of Honor medal.

Whereas, Willie Southerland, a 94-year-old veteran of Richmond, Indiana, received the French Legion of Honor medal for his service during World War II;

Whereas, The French Legion of Honor medal, created by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, is the highest award given by the French Republic and honors recipients for outstanding service to France;

Whereas, Southerland was one of the hundreds of thousands of Allied soldiers who liberated France during World War II. He splashed ashore on Omaha Beach with the 1st Infantry Division on D-Day (June 6, 1944), then fought his way across France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany;

Whereas, Southerland fought in five major battles in Europe in the early 1940s, during which he was wounded five times;



Whereas, Southerland was overcome with emotion when he received the medal, which joins other medals, including his Bronze Star, five Purple Hearts, and numerous ribbons he was previously awarded; and

Whereas, Willie Southerland is an American hero whose role in the liberation of France is worthy of recognition: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. The Indiana Senate recognizes Willie
2 Southerland for his service and honors him as the recipient of the
3 French Legion of Honor medal.

4 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to
5 transmit a copy of this Resolution to VFW 1108, Veterans of Foreign
6 Wars Department Indiana Kirk-Little Post.

